

Columbia River Policy Advisory Group

August 28, 2014

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. Facilitator Neil Aaland reviewed the agenda. Introductions were made around the room. Neil explained that was an abbreviated meeting, ending around 11:00 am, due to the tour of Yakima basin project sites happening in the afternoon.

Projects proposed for funding in next biennium

Derek Sandison, Office of Columbia River, discussed projects proposed for funding in the 2015-17 biennium. A proposed list will be submitted to the Governor's Office in September; the Governor's capital budget will be released in December ahead of the state legislative session.

He reviewed a map showing all of the projects funded by the program. To date, approximately 370,000 acre-feet of water has (or will) become available. The cost averages \$508 per acre-foot. This compares to a standard cost of \$1500 per acre-foot when obtaining new water. The program's cost of obtaining water is quite cost-effective.

Derek then reviewed the projects they are planning to propose to the Governor's office. [Note: please refer to the PowerPoint presentation at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/images/pdf/PAG8-14.pdf> for details on these proposed projects; a copy as a pdf file is attached to these meeting notes].

OCR's 2015-201 budget proposal is \$18.75 million. After the end of the biennium, approximately \$3.3 million will be left on OCR's bonding authorization.

He also described some funding for Yakima Basin Implementation Plan projects. This funding does not come from the Columbia river bonding capacity, but he wanted PAG members to know about them. Ecology is requesting \$30 million for YBIP projects; these are also listed on the PowerPoint presentation slides.

[Lisa Pelly::]

CRPAG members and the audience had these questions and made these observations:

- How is OCR working with the municipalities who are at risk for losing their water supplies? [OCR has provided funding in the current biennium to work with them; he wants each city to come up with a contingency plan, since there is not a "one size fits all" answer]
- Rep. Warnick said the revenue forecast is gradually increasing but there are bit issues with the McCleary decision. Still working on culverts, fires, flooding issues in other parts of the state. How does Derek see those issues fitting into this? [There is a broader conversation happening on a bigger package of issues that may go as a referendum to the people; Tom Tebb mentioned there was a telephone conference yesterday to discuss the need for addressing flood issues]

Derek closed out this topic with a note that today is Rob Swedo's final PAG meeting, he has decided to retire.

General Updates on Funded Projects

Derek talked about the following projects:

1. They will be seeking bids soon for siphons south of I-90 (Lind 1 and 2)
2. Working on accessing a “mound” of water in the vicinity of Highway 14, under the Columbia Basin project. This has accumulated over the years, and is a challenge to tap. OCR is working with USGS to help access that water.

Tour logistics for remainder of day

Neil Aaland reviewed the remaining logistics. Box lunches are being delivered for PAG members and alternates. We will be visiting the following sites:

- Manastash Creek
- Indian Creek/Teanaway Community Forest
- Cle Elum Reservoir
- Cle Elum Fish Hatchery

The tour will conclude at approximately 4:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting of the CRPAG will be in February, 2015. The meeting originally scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2014 has been cancelled.

Attendees:

CRPAG members and alternates:

Dale Bambrick, NMFS
 Jon Culp, WSCC
 Jim Fredericks, USACOE
 Perry Harvester, WDFW
 Wes McCart, Stevens County Commissioner
 Rick Miller, Franklin County Commissioner
 Lisa Pelly, Trout Unlimited
 Rich Stevens, Grant County Commissioner
 Rob Swedo, BPA

Others in attendance:

Neil Aaland, Facilitator
 Garrett Anderson, CH2M Hill
 Bridget August, Geo Engineers
 Jim Browitt, Schroeder Law Offices
 Stuart Crane, Yakama Nation
 Christi Davis-Kernan, U.S Bureau of Reclamation
 Andy Dunn, RH2 Engineering
 Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County
 Eric Johnson, Washington State Association of Counties
 Al Josephy, Ecology
 Mike Krautkramer, Robinson Noble
 Walter Larrick, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 Ben Lee, Landau Associates

Julia Meier, SWCA Environmental Consultants
Laura Merrill, Washington State Association of Counties
Eric Miller, Geo Engineers
Dave Nazy, Department of Ecology
Phil Rockefeller, Northwest power and Conservation Council
Derek Sandison, Department of Ecology
Karen Skoog, Pend Oreille County Commissioner
Tom Tebb, Ecology CRO Regional Director
Ed Thomas, CH2M Hill
Rep. Judy Warnick, Washington State House of Representatives
Bruce Williams, Geo Engineers